

EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

The Los Angeles Police Department is dedicated to the protection of persons and property throughout the City of Los Angeles. The Department understands and expressly acknowledges that this includes taking steps to ensure that the constitutional rights of individuals to engage in expressive conduct is preserved within the framework established by federal, state and local law.

For this reason, LAPD is interested in facilitating safe and peaceful expressive events, that adhere to certain established ordinances enacted by the City Council and State laws enacted by the California Legislature that specifically regulate the time, place or manner in which the activity occurs. These local and State laws, by their nature, reflect the needed balance between an individual or group's First Amendment rights and the government's rights to regulate multiple uses of its property and protect the welfare of the public.

Thus, in residential neighborhoods, LAPD will attempt to identify and meet with any event organizers to facilitate peaceful, lawful First Amendment activity. However, when personnel develop probable cause to believe that a particular Municipal or State Code is being violated, reasonable effort should be made to first provide a warning to the violator to cease the particular conduct so that enforcement action is not necessary. Enforcement may be an option where violations continue after warnings have been issued.

In addition to enforcement of laws regulating the use of City streets and sidewalks, as well as expressive activities directed at a particular private residence, LAPD may take enforcement action including citing, and in some circumstances, arresting people who engage in the following conduct in residential neighborhoods:

- Using a bullhorn, microphone, or loudspeaker to amplify the human voice or music after 4:30 p.m. or before 9:00 a.m. (LAMC § 115.02(b));
- Using a bullhorn, microphone, or loudspeaker that can be heard more than 200 feet from its source (LAMC § 115.02(f)(1));
- Using amplified sound which is loud and raucous so as to unreasonably interfere with one or more (non-Department) person's peace and quiet (LAMC § 41.57 – see criteria); or
- Creating loud, unnecessary and unusual noise that causes one or more (non-Department) persons to complain that their peace or quiet is disturbed or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area (LAMC § 116.01—see considerations).